

Sunday 19 April 2026 Cooma Anglican HC 3

Hymn: TIS 517 Hallelujah! sing to Jesus

Hallelujah! sing to Jesus, his the sceptre, his the throne;
hallelujah! his the triumph, his the victory alone;
hark, the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
'Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood.'

Hallelujah! not as orphans, are we left in sorrow now;
hallelujah! he is near us, faith believes, nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise, 'I am with you evermore'?

Hallelujah! bread of heaven, and on earth our food, our stay;
hallelujah! here the sinful flee to you from day to day;
intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, plead for me
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Hallelujah! King eternal, you the Lord of lords we own;
hallelujah! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heav'n your throne:
you within the veil have entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;
you on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

Sentence of Scripture

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. John 21:12

The Great Commandments

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 'This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O God, who in your great mercy made glass the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord; give us such awareness of his presence with us that we maybe strengthened and sustained by his risen life, and serve you continually in righteousness and truth through Jesus Christ our Lord , who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Ezekiel 47:3-10 (NIV)

A³ As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. ⁴ He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. ⁵ He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. ⁶ He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?” Then he led me back to the bank of the river. ⁷ When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. ⁸ He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. ⁹ Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. ¹⁰ Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds —like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalms 51:10–19 (NIV)

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
¹¹ **Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.**
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
¹³ **Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.**
¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
¹⁵ **Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.**
¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
¹⁷ **My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.**
¹⁸ May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
¹⁹ **Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

1 John 2:1-6 (NIV)

¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. ³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made

complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

John 21:1-14 (NIV)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹ Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

⁶ He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon - The New Era

The Nicene' Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in

accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the world and the church

Response: Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Scripture Sentence

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 1 Corinthians 11:26-28

The Confession

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together:

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done.

We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.

For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us.

By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God is slow to anger and full of compassion, forgiving all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord. God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus, in whom there is no condemnation. **Amen**

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn - TIS 514 Be known to us in breaking bread

Be known to us in breaking bread, But do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread, Thy table in our heart.

There sup with us in love divine; your body and your blood
that living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.

Thanksgiving for Offering

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, making us in your own image. We praise you for your son, our saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and his blood. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying 'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.

We who are many are one body in Christ, **for we all share in the one bread.**

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying 'Drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.** We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and united in the body of your Son. Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom, there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise.

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power forever and ever. Amen

The Holy Communion

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

After Communion

Gracious God, thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Notices

Hymn - TIS 613 - Lord of all hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Sermon - The start of a new era John 21:1-14

How many fundamental changes in the world have you lived through? I remember watching *The West Wing* on television back in 2001 and saw a news flash saying that an aircraft had crashed into a skyscraper in New York. My initial thought was that an aircraft had got lost like the B25 bomber in heavy fog that crashed into the Empire State Building in 1945, but as news reports kept coming in I woke my wife and told her that the world was changing. What earth changing events have you lived through? World War 2? COVID 19? The invention of microcomputers and the internet?

In today's gospel reading, the apostle Peter is still reeling from the most earth changing event to ever happen - Jesus, Son of God, had come to earth as a human being, died for our sins and was raised again to life. We base our calendars on Jesus's life (even if they missed the actual birth date by about 6 years) because his life and death signified the most fundamental change the world will ever see since God created it until Jesus returns. Peter had spent three or so years of his adult life following Jesus, listening to him, trusting him, and then at the critical moment he had disowned him - denied that he had ever known him. Then, as we heard last week, Mary Magdalene told Peter that Jesus had risen from the dead and the whole world changed. Then, that evening, when the disciples were together, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20:19-23 From then on, Peter's life was completely changed - he was led by the Holy Spirit, he helped establish the early church, and his whole life was dedicated to proclaiming the good news that Jesus had died and risen for the forgiveness of sins and restoration of a perfect relationship between God and mankind in the final era that Jesus will return to establish.

In looking at today's passage, I want to look at what is the new era that Peter was at the birth of, the signs of that new era, and the Christian - our - role in that new era.

Firstly, what the new era is - what defines it.

In simple terms, the new era, which happens to be the era we are still currently in, is the period between Jesus's death and resurrection and when Jesus returns. The significance of this era is that with Jesus dying in our place and rising again, nothing else has to happen before the coming of the new heaven and the new earth which we read about in the book of Revelation, 2 Peter 3, Mark 13 and other places. Nothing except that people come to faith in Jesus and repentance. God doesn't want any he has chosen to perish, and Jesus will return as soon as all who he has chosen have repented and put their faith in him.

Another way of looking at it is to divide all of salvation history into eras. The first era would be Creation until the fall in Genesis 3:15, the second era from the until Jesus came as a human to die for the sins of the world, the third era, the current is the last days until Jesus returns, and finally, the end of history and the perfectly restored creation with God, humankind and creation in perfect harmony, the way it was intended in the garden of Eden. Of course, many refine the eras more finely than that, with eras further divided, for example the last days into the period of the apostles and the church spreading throughout the world, but what is important is that we are in the last days, the period between Christ's death and his return. We are in the era that God has set aside for his people, through the Holy Spirit, to put their faith in Jesus and repent in preparation for the final era, the eternal life that he has promised.

Secondly, the signs of the new era from our passage.

The first thing you might be wondering is why Peter chose to go fishing. It is likely that with Jesus dying and rising again after Peter had denied him, he was going back to where he had started before Jesus. He had been in the family fishing business before he followed Jesus, and now it appeared that that part of his life was over, he would go back to his old life, his original trade.

You would have noticed from our passage that the disciples failed to catch anything until they saw Jesus. This immediately reminds me of Luke chapter 5, right at the beginning of Jesus's early ministry, when Peter, who was called Simon then, took Jesus onto his boat and despite not catching anything all night, filled his nets nearly to splitting when he put them over the side Jesus had said to. Jesus said "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." and straight away, Peter left everything to follow Jesus.

This was not only the start of Peter's discipleship, but also the start of the era of Jesus's earthly ministry. You can see how similar it was to what happens in today's reading, which signifies the start of another era, the last days.

Many people look to find some significance in the fact that the disciples caught precisely 153 fish. There are a lot of interesting ideas, many of which are associated with the Hebrew practice of assigning a numerical value to each letter of the Hebrew alphabet and adding them up. Apparently if you do this with the Hebrew words for 'I am God', or with the town of En Aglaim which is mentioned in an end times prophecy in Ezekiel 47, or even the names of the disciples on the boat you get 153. One of these may be significant, but their arbitrariness doesn't convince me. Other maths nerds point out that 153 is the 17th triangular number ($1+2+3$ and up to 17) and 17 represents the 10 commandments of the law and God's perfect number 7. I personally think that the fact the disciples caught precisely 153 more fish than I ever have while fishing is most significant. The number stuck in their minds because it was so big. It signified God's abundant blessing, particularly as this huge number of large fish did not split the nets. Since Peter's role was to fish for people rather than fish for fish, this abundance in God's blessing likely signifies that large number of people that would turn to Christ as a result of Peter's ministry, and the ministry of other Christians since.

The third point I want to make is What our role, the role of Christians, in this new era?. When God made humankind in Genesis 1, he gave the role of "Be[ing] fruitful and increase in number; filling the earth and subdue it. Mankind was to rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." It may be significant in our gospel that fish are the first creatures mankind is told to rule over.

I mentioned that at the beginning of Jesus's earthly ministry, he told Simon Peter that he was to fish for people, not fish. In today's reading, when the disciples got ashore with their fish, Jesus already had breakfast started with fish and bread that he had started preparing earlier. Even so, he calls Peter to bring some of their catch as well. This is part of Jesus's way of saying that Peter and the other disciples were to continue to be involved in fishing for people. It isn't just Jesus converting people to faith, but Peter, the other disciples, and in fact all Christians are to be involved in proclaiming the gospel and bringing people to faith in Jesus. We are all to be fishers for

people, and share in God's abundant blessing in that ministry. An abundance of people will gain eternal life through us sharing the gospel.

As we go about this business, Christians are to go have fellowship, including breaking bread together, having fellowship over meals as the disciples did that morning. When we restarted Men's Breakfasts in Cooma not long after I started here, I chose this passage to describe the mission of men's breakfasts. I said that like the fish breakfast with Jesus, Peter and the other disciples, Men's breakfasts were to be distinctively Christian, because None of the disciples dared ask Jesus, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Secondly, we are to recognise that Christ feeds us, just as the disciples recognised that it was Christ who fed them, in the physical nourishment sense. Verse 13 says Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. And thirdly, as Jesus taught the disciples after the meal (which we will talk about next week), so each of the breakfasts includes some teaching about Jesus, teaching that is lead to us being sent out with a renewed mission from God - to share his gospel, to minister to his people, to change our lives to be more like his, to work for his kingdom here on earth.

My prayer for each of us this morning is that this passage will perform similar functions for us in this era that we are in. As we look back on Jesus's death and resurrection for us and look forward to his return and our eternal life, that we too will live lives that are distinctively Christian, that we will be fed by Jesus, recognising that Jesus is the source of all good gifts, and we will be taught by Jesus, going out as Peter was to, to share the gospel, to minister to his people, to change our lives to be more like his, to work for the final perfection of his kingdom here on earth when he returns and all who put their faith in him, including those we have shared to gospel with, will share in the perfect eternal life that he promises.

Are you living that in this era, like Peter did?

Amen